

CARTSNEWS

The Official Journal of the Carolina Token Society

ISSUE #29

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Hello to all CARTS members,

I hope the New Year finds you well. The recent snowstorm here in South Carolina allowed me some time to pen a couple articles for this issue of CARTSNEWS. I hope that you also found some time to devote to the hobby yourself.

If you were unable to attend the combined SETS/CARTS meeting last November, you missed a good one. There were a total of 8 CARTS members and 12 SETS members. Some attendees were members of both organizations, so the head count was not quite 20, but it still was the best attended CARTS meeting that I can remember. Lots of tokens were available for sale or trade and there were even some door prizes that were given away. All in all, it was a great meeting and perhaps we can have a joint meeting again sometime in the future.

The next CARTS meeting will be held on May 14 near Clinton, SC (exit 52 off I-26). I am not exactly sure which hotel at this exit will be our location yet. There are several hotels located here (it's near the intersection of I-26 and I-385), and at least 3 of them have meeting rooms. I plan on visiting each one in the near future and reserving the best one for our purposes. So I will have the exact location for the next issue of CARTSNEWS, but suffice it to say for now that the meeting will be held on May 14 at Clinton, SC (exit 52).

Regards,
Tony Chibbaro
President of CARTS

WHAT'S HAPPENING?

First, if you have not already done so, mail your 2011 dues check (still only \$10) to treasurer Bob King.

Next, here's a bit more about the November meeting in Villa Rica with SETS. Tony was too modest to mention his excellent program on odd shaped tokens, with great photos of his collection. Those of you who missed this one missed not only a great time, but a great program as well. Bob King reported that CARTS finances were in good shape with \$590.12 on hand.

Now a personal note about the meeting. Your editor added 11 North Carolina tokens to his collection, acquired a really great peanut token that Tony Chibbaro had found, and managed to find an extremely interesting maverick at an antique shop on the way to the meeting. If you want to add to your collection the CARTS gatherings are the very best place to do that.

Finally, send in those classified ads, articles, etc.!!!

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Comments, suggestions, reactions, (maybe even) criticism, will be gratefully accepted. Let us know!
Articles, New Finds, Announcements, and Classifieds to Don Bailey only! Dues to Bob King only!

WANTED

**ALL TOKENS AND INFORMATION REGARDING
CHAS PICK, GEO. KUEHL, GEO. KUEHL & BRO, AND
L. BOCHE.**

**ALSO LOOKING FOR PARKING TOKENS FROM ALL
STATES; TRANSIT AND CARWASH FROM
COLORADO; AS WELL AS ALL EXONUMIA FROM
BOONE, IA; AMES, IA; MADRID, IA; VISALIA, CA AND
COLORADO SPRINGS, CO.**

**John Kent
6545 Northwind Dr
Colorado Springs, CO 80918
Token7@hotmail.com**

ASBESTOS – THE “MIRACLE” FIBER

Tony Chibbaro

South Carolina's economy benefited so greatly from cotton during the 19th and 20th centuries that it was only natural for industry leaders to explore the use of other types of fibers in their mills. Linen and wool most certainly were considered, with at least one woolen mill, McGee Manufacturing Company of Greenville, known to be in operation in the early 1900s. And when synthetic fibers like nylon, rayon, and polyester were introduced in the middle part of the 20th century, many mills were converted to handle these new products. But this article will concern one of the naturally produced fibers not mentioned above – asbestos.

The seemingly miraculous fire retardant properties of asbestos were discovered in antiquity. The Romans were known to have used asbestos shrouds, crudely woven by hand, to wrap the bodies of the dead before cremation. The fireproof cloth would not be consumed by the flames of the funeral pyre and the ashes of the deceased could be reclaimed and preserved. During the Middle Ages, the Emperor Charlemagne is purported to have impressed some of his subjects by using an asbestos tablecloth during a banquet, throwing it into the hearth fire at the end of the meal, and pulling it out a few minutes later completely unscorched, much to the amazement of his dinner guests. But asbestos use in modern industry did not occur until the late 1800s. Its imperviousness to fire was exploited for use in modern construction materials and other applications where heat or flame might damage other substances. Uses included fire retardant coatings, concrete, bricks, pipes and fireplace cement; fire resistant gaskets, pipe insulation, and ceiling insulation; and fireproof drywall, flooring, roofing, lawn furniture, and drywall joint compound.

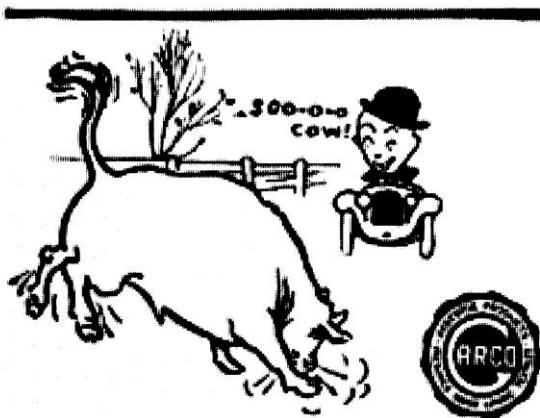
During World War II, thousands of tons of asbestos were used to wrap pipes, line boilers, and cover engine and turbine parts of the myriad ships, planes, tanks, and other equipment produced for the war effort.

Of special interest to collectors of South Carolina tokens is the General Asbestos and Rubber Company, which began its corporate life on July 2, 1895 as the Charleston Metallic Packing Company. George W. Williams (President), Louis R. Fitzsimmons (Secretary-Treasurer), and Samuel Hughes (General Manager) comprised the Board of Directors of the company that was formed to "manufacture steam, hydraulic, and other packings used in the mechanical arts." The company was initially capitalized at \$8,000 and was located on Cumberland Street in Charleston's warehouse district. Around 1900 the company came under the control of C. Bissell Jenkins, one of the foremost businessmen of his day. Jenkins guided the company through the ensuing two decades and presided over a name change to General Asbestos & Rubber Company (GARCO for short) in 1910 and an expansion into North Charleston in 1913.



In North Charleston, a multi-acre site was chosen adjacent to the newly finished Naval Shipyard and a large mill was constructed, with one source claiming it to be "the largest asbestos mill under one roof in the world." GARCO Park, as the site was called, was a complete mill village comparable to the dozens of cotton mill villages located throughout the state. Some 75 company-owned houses were built, as well as a company store. The mill primarily produced automotive brake lining, receiving raw asbestos rock freshly mined from Canada. After being crushed, the fiberized material was then put through processes very similar to those used on cotton fibers - carding, spinning, and weaving. The company advertised

the end product as "GARCO" Asbestos Brake Lining (see ad below) and even trademarked the product's name (see trademark on right side of ad).



Knows when to stop

**Garco enables one to avoid
many unpleasant acquaintances
met on the highways.**

**Tough as the neck of an ox—
strong and enduring—Garco
gives your brakes a holding
power that never flinches.**

**You'll learn the many reasons
when your brakes are Garco
lined. See your dealer.**

General Asbestos & Rubber Co.

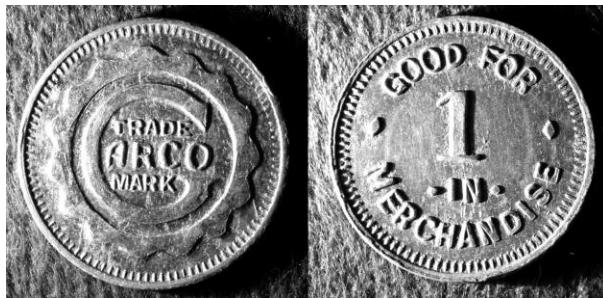
Charleston, S. C.

NEW YORK CHICAGO PITTSBURGH

GARCO
ASBESTOS
BRAKE LINING

The token illustrated below is unusual in that it also features the company's trademark. The obverse description is as follows: TRADE / ARCO / MARK (on three lines within a large capital letter G), all of which appears inside a large scalloped edge circle. The reverse of the 19mm aluminum

token has the standard inscription: GOOD FOR / 1 / IN / MERCHANDISE. Five cent tokens are also known to exist, and other denominations were probably issued as well. They were used at the company store in North Charleston during the 1910s and 1920s.



In 1920, the company's capitalization reached five million dollars and the prominent trade journal *Asbestos* stated that "General Asbestos & Rubber Company is the largest manufacturer of asbestos textiles in the world." Nine years later, the company became part of the firm Raybestos, but retained the use of the GARCO trademark for a period of time. The mill later operated under the name of Raybestos Manhattan Corporation, and lasted into the 1970s. Hundreds worked at the GARCO mill over the years, including longtime U.S. Congressman Mendel Rivers, who even played baseball on the team the company fielded in the textile leagues. Many people today, whose parents worked at the mill, fondly remember happy times growing up in GARCO Park and relate stories similar to those told by their counterparts who grew up in the dozens of other mill villages in the state. Pictured below is one of the standard mill houses in GARCO Park, taken in the early

2000s, looking no different from similar mill houses still standing in the Piedmont and the Midlands.



In the latter half of the 20th century it was recognized that despite its almost miraculous properties, the use of asbestos had severe health consequences. Many once-vibrant companies quickly went out of business as lawsuits and large jury awards made it unprofitable to continue. Asbestos mining ceased in 1983 and the use of asbestos in manufactured products was phased out in 1989 and banned entirely in 2004. The Raybestos Company was forced into bankruptcy in the 1980s, but manufacturing at the GARCO plant had stopped long before that. The legacy of the General Asbestos and Rubber Company remains in North Charleston, though, as the mill building is undergoing renovation as office space and loft apartments. Many of the company-owned houses (pictured above) that were built in 1913 also remain. The area surrounding the mill is still called GARCO Park and the planned revitalization is expected to spill over into the immediate vicinity in the form of retail and light commercial use.

NEW FIND: THE "CORRECTED" WALLACE DOPE STAND TOKEN

Lamar Bland

In the November, 2010, issue of CARTSNEWS, Don Bailey reported on the "Dope Stand Token" issued by D.T. Wallace in Lawndale, N.C. Bailey identified it as an "error token" because it names T.D. Wallace as the dope stand owner. I can now confirm that a later token obverse was minted

which corrected the error—getting the initials in the right order for DeWitt Talmadge (Tal) Wallace. The corrected token is shown below.



This token belongs to Amanda Wallace Chew, Tal Wallace's granddaughter, in El Paso, Texas. I am grateful for her permission to publish this image of the token, and to her husband for photographing it.

I was led to Mandy Chew by Mrs. Jearldean Wease, wife of John Wease (whose tenure with the Wallace Dope Wagon is described in Bailey's article). Jearldean (Tal's daughter) is pictured in the photograph which follows, taken last summer when I visited at her home in Lawndale.



She is an alert woman who still enjoys the community she has lived in for over 80 years. That community includes 3 fat cats which lie nearby in her front yard or on her porch.

We talked about her role in the family business. She remembers how in the early days "dopes" (soft drinks) were delivered by truck to their house. Cokes (their biggest sell), Pepsis, R.C. Colas, 7-Ups, Orange and Grape drinks. Sandwiches were made at home by the women—her mother, her mom's sister, and Jearldean and siblings. Baloney sandwiches and egg sandwiches were the favorites, but hot dogs, hamburgers, and liver mush were also options. If a worker needed something to help with digestion, the dope wagon also stocked BC Headache Powders, and Goody's, both North Carolina products. Goody's, she remembers, was cheaper. When the wagon was stocked, it went to the mill.

When she was old enough, Jearldean was allowed to walk from home into the mill to gather the empty drink bottles. She loaded them back into the dope wagon, in the company of her older sister Ruby, who pushed the wagon home.

I photographed the mill buildings as they now stand in Lawndale, empty symbols of a vanishing southern culture.



The Wallace tokens are important artifacts of that culture. We know now that they include the 5 cent and 10 cent TD error variety, the 10 cent DT token in El Paso, and probably a 5 cent DT variety not yet located.

Bailey's article provides good historical detail about the dope stand's long life, when it was managed by Tal Wallace, and later by his son-in-law John Wease.

Jearldean Wallace Wease's memory breathes further life into that culture.

***Editor's Note:** Since the November newsletter a 5¢ D. T. Wallace token has surfaced.*

Moreover, there is reason to question Bailey's earlier claim that the T. D. Wallace token was an error. It is true that Mrs. Wease asserts her father's name was DeWitt Talmadge, and indeed that is the name on his death certificate. But Bob King has pointed out that the July 1927 Dun lists Talmadge D. Wallace as a restaurant operator in Lawndale. Also, the 1910 census gives the form Talmadge D. Wallace, and both the 1920 and the 1930 census give merely Talmadge Wallace.

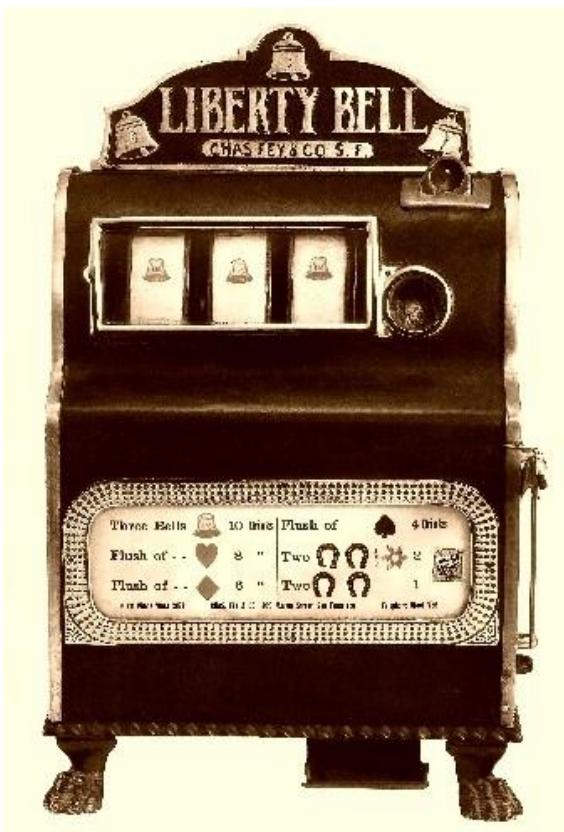
In addition King has documented two different varieties (thus two different issues) of the 10¢ T. D. Wallace tokens. Is it likely that two different dies would be cut with the same error?

It appears the question is still open—a bit

A Spartanburg Maverick Identified

Tony Chibbaro

Gambling in the form of wagers placed on games of chance has been around for millennia, but it has been only 124 years since slot machines were built to aid in separating a man from his money. The first slot machine was constructed by Charles Fey, who, in 1887, built a device called *The Liberty Bell* in his San Francisco basement. Since then, hundreds of variations of that first machine have been built, but the basic principles of Fey's original design remain to this day.



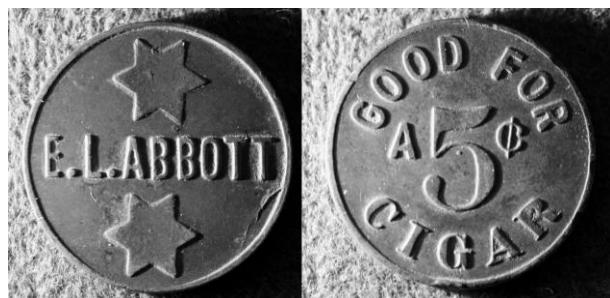
Charles Fey built the first slot machine, *The Liberty Bell*, in 1887.

Fey's *Liberty Bell* was not the first coin-operated gambling machine, but it was the first one to pay out winnings in a rush of coins. All of those in operation previously had no mechanism for immediate payouts. *The Liberty Bell* proved so popular that imitations soon flourished and within 20 years it was nigh impossible to find a town in

America which did not have at least a few of these one-armed bandits tucked away in some cigar store or pool hall. Even drug stores were known to harbor these addictive machines.

The proliferation of slot machines across the country brought reprisals in the form of anti-gambling laws and ordinances. Most towns and states adopted some form of regulation, be it licensing or outright banning. But enterprising individuals found ways around such regulation, often in the form of machines which were modified to pay out in tokens rather than coins. Many of these tokens were good for some form of merchandise – a stick of gum, a cigar, a tune, or a glass of soda – but could also be redeemed for cash under the table. And, of course, these tokens could also be fed back into the machines for the next play, as undoubtedly many often were.

South Carolina had its share of these slot machines. Charleston and Columbia were two cities from which numerous slot machine tokens can be found today. But it is a maverick token and its attribution to the city of Spartanburg that is the focus of this article.



The token pictured above is your standard 21mm brass trade token which features the simple inscription of "E.L. ABBOTT" sandwiched between two large stars on the obverse, and "GOOD FOR A 5¢ CIGAR" on the reverse. Over the years I have been fortunate enough to accumulate three identical tokens from this issuer. All were purchased individually from sources within the state – one from a Spartanburg collector, one from a Greenville coin dealer, and the third from a Columbia coin dealer. I always surmised that the token would one day be attributed to somewhere in South Carolina, but I have never been able to find any listing for a merchant named E.L. Abbott in the standard mercantile directories.

A couple of months ago, however, I was fooling around on the internet and typed Abbott's name into one of the popular internet search engines. In the resulting list of references was a link to a court case of long ago pitting a man by the name of E.L. Abbott against the state of South Carolina. A quick reading of the synopsis of the case revealed that E.L. Abbott of Spartanburg had been arrested and convicted of violating local anti-gambling ordinances in 1910. Apparently the sentence was a fine of \$60 and a one year prison sentence, suspended upon payment of the fine. The aforementioned court case came about because Abbott and his co-defendant, a man named Frank Dearman, had violated their parole by again being found guilty of gambling. I quickly did some searching on HeritageQuest, which has compiled U.S. census information into a digital format. I found Abbott's name there in 1900, 1910, and again in 1920.

Edgar Lee Abbott was listed in the 1900 federal census as a 28 year old merchant in the city of Spartanburg and was shown as being married with one daughter. The intervening 10 years brought 3 sons into the Abbott household, as the 1910 census listed Abbott (still in Spartanburg) as a 38 year old head of household, with "own income" as his occupation. (This euphemism was used in census reports when a person did not have a proper job, but utilized sources of unearned income to support the family.) The 1920 census again brought change to the Abbott household, as his eldest daughter, now presumably married, was no longer listed. Abbott's occupation was now shown as "public cars", which meant that he operated a line of taxis. One of his sons was also shown as a "chauffeur", undoubtedly working for his father. The 1930 census information has not been completely merged into HeritageQuest's digital format, so I have no further info on Abbott or his family.

Some comments on the above information and the attribution of the token are now in order.

1. Even though I have been unable to find Abbott listed in the standard Dun & Bradstreet mercantile directories, I believe that the attribution to Spartanburg is a solid one. The census information, as well as the three tokens purchased separately over a period of years from three different in-state sources, all point to an origin in South Carolina.
2. There were no other Abbotts listed in the census records having a name which matched the initials on the token. In fact, there were relatively few Abbotts listed as living in South Carolina in the early 1900s – only 37, 53, and 74 households appeared in the 1900, 1910, and 1920 censuses, respectively.
3. Abbott was also shown in two occupations both of which hint at the possibility of token use, although the most telling piece of information is his arrest and conviction for gambling. If one embraces the assumption that Abbott operated slot machines, then all of the above information makes more sense. Someone who derived his income clandestinely from a stable of slot machines would not be listed in a mercantile directory, would have a need for tokens, and would appear in the U.S. Census as having "own income."

Incidentally, I once owned a small metal license tag issued by the city of Spartanburg in 1917 for a slot machine. Apparently the city fathers thought it necessary to regulate slot machines by licensure in the late teens rather than banning them outright. I would surmise that E.L. Abbott and Frank Dearman were not the only slot machine operators in Spartanburg back then. And what became of Frank Dearman? The 1920 census states that he was an inmate at the State Hospital for the Insane in Columbia.



A few photos from the November Joint CARTS SETS meeting

CLASSIFIED ADS

WANTED

I WANT TOKENS FROM ANY PEANUT COMPANY – Planters, Columbian, Spanish National, what have you – from NC, VA, anywhere. Don Bailey, PO Box 1272, Etowah NC 28729, ELADON@MORRISBB.NET.

WANTED: WEST END PHARMACY TOKENS FROM ANDERSON, SC. Will purchase or trade for Orr-Gray Drug Store tokens, “good for 5 cent soda water and/or cigar”. Both mint or circulated. Will sell both mint cigar and circulated soda water for \$35.00. John Speer, 508 Allenby Road, Anderson, SC 29621.

WANTED: MAVERICK TOKENS FROM PACOLET MANUFACTURING CO. AND CLIFTON MANUFACTURING CO. Will pay your price or make you the trade of your dreams..... Tony Chibbaro, PO Box 420, Prosperity, SC 29127 phone: 803-252-1881, email: chibbaro@mindspring.com

FOR TRADE

FOR TRADE: HOLT HOSIERY MILLS/GOOD FOR 5 C IN TRADE. BURLINGTON NC MAVERICK. My article on Holt tokens included. Will trade for comparable NC mill token—or Textile Dairy token—or NC Ingle(s). Lamar Bland: blandl@elon.edu 919-383-6514

FOR SALE

PAPER COUPON SCRIP FROM DUPLIN TRADING CO, WARSAW, NC. \$ 5.00 + SASE (Optional Insurance Add \$ 1.75) Steven Kawalec P.O. Box 4281 Clifton, NJ 07012 Owlprowler@aol.com

SALE OR TRADE

I HAVE HUNDREDS OF TRANSPORTATION TOKENS FROM ALL STATES TO SELL OR TRADE. I will trade multiples of transportation tokens for NC Trade Tokens if you prefer. Bob King, 709 Cardinal Dr, Brevard, NC 28712 828-883-8028 tokenaddict@citcom.net

IF YOU HAVE NOT DONE SO, MAIL YOUR DUES CHECK TO BOB KING ASAP

CARTS Membership and Dues: Membership in CARTS is open to anyone interested in the exonumia of the two Carolinas. Annual dues are \$10.00 and should be mailed to the treasurer, Bob King. Checks should be made payable to CARTS.

CARTSNEWS: CARTSNEWS, the newsletter of CARTS, is published four times per year in February, May, August, and November.

Advertising: Each member is encouraged to submit one classified ad per issue. These ads are free to members. Free ads should be no more than 50 words in length. No ads will be run continuously; a new ad must be submitted for each issue. The editor reserves the right to edit ads for length and any ad thought not to be in the best interest of the hobby will be rejected.

Paid advertising is also solicited. The rate per issue for paid ads is as follows. One quarter page \$3.00, one half page \$6.00, and full page \$11.00. Any paid advertising, along with payment, should be sent to the editor by the fifteenth of that month before the month of issue. So, for example, advertising copy for the May issue should be received by the editor by April 15. Camera ready copy will be accepted, but the editor will also compose ads from your rough copy if you desire. As with free advertising the editor may reject any ad thought not in the best interest of CARTS or the hobby at large.